

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A digital signature generating apparatus having storage unit in which a plurality of secret keys have been stored that generates a digital signature of digital data, comprising:

a receiving unit that receives a first or second command, the first command including information indicating one of a plurality of secret keys;

a secret key setting unit that sets a first secret key indicated by the first command as a second secret key, if the first command is received by the receiving unit; and

a processing unit adapted to change a secret key used by said digital signature generating apparatus to a secret key specified by a key change command if the key change command has been received, and generate a digital signature generating unit that generates the digital signature of prescribed the digital data using any one of the plurality of secret keys the second secret key, if a signature generating the second command has been is received by the receiving unit.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The digital signature generating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said the digital signature generating apparatus is an IC card.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The digital signature generating apparatus according to claim 2 1, wherein said the digital signature generating apparatus is an apparatus equipped with including a multi-application operating system.

Claims 4-13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (New): The digital signature generating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a storage unit that stores the plurality of secret keys.

Claim 15 (New): The digital signature generating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the digital data includes image data.

Claim 16 (New): The digital signature generating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the receiving unit receives the digital data from an external device, the digital data being used to generate the digital signature of the digital data.

Claim 17 (New): The digital signature generating apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the digital signature generating unit generates a hash value of the digital data from the digital data in order to generate the digital signature of the digital data.

Claim 18 (New): The digital signature generating apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the digital signature generating unit encrypts the hash value of the digital data using the second secret key, in order to generate the digital signature of the digital data.

Claim 19 (New): The digital signature generating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the receiving unit receives a hash value of the digital data from an external device, the hash value being used to generate the digital signature of the digital data.

Claim 20 (New): A digital signature generating system, comprising:
an image sensing apparatus that generates image data representing a sensed image; and
a digital signature generating apparatus that generates a digital signature of digital data, the digital data including the image data generated by the image sensing apparatus,

wherein the digital signature generating apparatus includes:

a receiving unit that receives a first or second command, the first command including information indicating one of a plurality of secret keys;

a secret key setting unit that sets a first secret key indicated by the first command as a second secret key, if the first command is received by the receiving unit; and

a digital signature generating unit that generates the digital signature of the digital data using the second secret key, if the second command is received by the receiving unit.

Claim 21 (New): The digital signature generating system according to claim 20, wherein the digital signature generating apparatus is an IC card.

Claim 22 (New): The digital signature generating system according to claim 20, wherein the digital signature generating apparatus is an apparatus including a multi-application operating system.

Claim 23 (New): The digital signature generating system according to claim 20, wherein the digital signature generating apparatus further includes:

a storage unit that stores the plurality of secret keys.

Claim 24 (New): The digital signature generating system according to claim 20, wherein the image sensing apparatus is a digital camera, a digital video camera or a scanner.

Claim 25 (New): The digital signature generating system according to claim 20, wherein the receiving unit receives the digital data from an external device, the digital data being used to generate the digital signature of the digital data.

Claim 26 (New): The digital signature generating system according to claim 25, wherein the digital signature generating unit generates a hash value of the digital data from the digital data in order to generate the digital signature of the digital data.

Claim 27 (New): The digital signature generating system according to claim 26, wherein the digital signature generating unit encrypts the hash value of the digital data using the second secret key, in order to generate the digital signature of the digital data.

Claim 28 (New): The digital signature generating system according to claim 20,

wherein the receiving unit receives a hash value of the digital data from an external device, the hash value being used to generate the digital signature of the digital data.